

To: Pete Brownell[Pete.Brownell@brownells.com]
From: Paul Erickson
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Dear International Man of Mystery,

Or should we just start calling you "Austin Powers" to your face?? ☺

A couple of small heads-ups so that you can process before being formally asked:

Ms. Butina has (apparently) moved heaven & earth and manipulated the Russian FSB (the current incarnation of the old KGB) and gotten you cleared for a tour of one (1) Russian arms factory the day before the NRA delegation arrives in Moscow. She found a way to shrink a normally 3-week process into about 3-days (probably because most of the FSB agents "assigned" to her want to marry her). Here is what that would mean for your schedule (I'm guessing that my explanation will be clearer than our young Russian's.)

Maria's thought was to arrange meetings with representatives from a couple of potential Brownell partners in Moscow on Sunday, December 6. Following that, you and Maria would travel by jet – out and back the same day – to the leading Russian arms manufacturing facility on Monday, December 7. (The plant that builds Russian missiles among other things.) The NRA delegation arrives in Moscow on Tuesday night, December 8 (giving you Tuesday in your palatial suite in the Metropole Hotel on Red Square to recover, do e-mails, walk around, etc.)

But if you accept this offer of business meetings before protocol meetings, it would require you to depart the U.S. on Friday, December 4 to arrive in Moscow on Saturday, December 5. (Multiple flight options from multiple cities, noon to noon or roughly 5:00 PM to 5:00 PM in terms of travel time on those days.) Moscow is 8 hours ahead of the Central Time Zone.

I have no idea if this comports with your altered December life schedule – but these "pre-meetings" would be VERY profitable for Brownells. And something that – quite literally – NONE of your U.S. competitors could ever hope to achieve.

Final note – just a protocol / fun addition for a man who (like me) is probably more comfortable hunting game than hunting ballerinas. You'll be receiving word shortly that Butina has arranged tickets for the NRA delegation to attend the Bolshoi Ballet on your final night in Moscow – a fitting pre-Christmas celebration and a beautiful way to end your first visit to Russia. Plus, I LOVE the juxtaposition of the chieftains of the NRA at the Bolshoi. ☺

As always, call or write at any hour with questions or suggestions to avoid protocol snafus.

Paul
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